

A N A C T

F O R

The better Propagation and Preaching of the

G O S P E L

I N

V V A L E S.

And redress of some Grievances.



Die Veneris, 22. Februarii, 1649.

Ordere*d by the Parliament, That this Act be forthwith
printed and published.*

Hen. Scobel, Cleric. Parliamenti.

L O N D O N,

Printed for *Francis Tyton*, for the use of the Commis-
sioners of *Wales*. 1650.

(1)



AN ACT

FOR

The better Propagation and Preaching of the

GOSPEL

In *W A L E S*, and redress of some Grievances.



He Parliament of *England* taking into their serious consideration the great Duty and Trust that lies on them to use all lawful ways and means for the propagation of the Gospel of Jesus

Christ in this Commonwealth : in order thereunto, Do Enact and Ordain, and be it Enacted and Ordained by this present Parliament, and by the Authority thereof, That Col. *Thomas Harrison*, Col. *Philip Jones*, Col. *John Iones*, Sir *John Trevor* Knight, *Henry Herbert Esq;* *William Herbert*,

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William Packer, William Blethin, Christopher Catchmay, Reece Williams, John Nicholas, Edward Herbert, Robert Iones, Bussey Mansel, Edward Prichard, John Price, Rowland Dawkins, William Boteler, Edward Stradling, John Herbert, Richard Iones, Ienkin Frainlin, John Iames, Wroth Rogers, John Herring, Stephen Winthrop, Esquires; Sir Erasmus Philips, Sampson Lort, Henry Williams, Silvanus Taylor, Richard King, John Williams, John Dancy, Thomas Watkins, Iames Philips, John Lewis, William Barbar, Esquires; John Daniel, John Bowen, Gent. John Puleston one of the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas, Hunphrey Mackworth, William Littleton, Robert Duckenfield, Thomas Baker, Hugh Price, Evan Lloyd, Richard Price, Robert Griffith, Edward Owens, George Twisleton, John Carter, Thomas Mason, Lighton Owens, Rice Vaughan, Thomas Ball, Hugh Courtney, Edward Taylor, Roger Soutley, Esq; Daniel Lloyd, David Moris, William Wynne, Gentlemen; Thomas Swift Esq; Hugh Prichard Gent. John Sadler, John Peck, Luke Lloyd, Andrew Ellis, Ralph Crechley, Esquires; Lewis Price of Llannoonog, Henry Williams, John Brown, Gent. are hereby constituted and appointed to be Commissioners in the Counties of Montgomery, Denbigh, Flint, Car-

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Carnarvan, Merioneth, Anglesey, Monmouth, Glamorgan, Pembroke, Carmarthen, Cardigan, Brecknock and Radnor, and every of them, to put in execution the several powers and authorities herein hereafter mentioned and directed (that is to say) That they the said Commissioners or any five or more of them shall have full power and authority, and are hereby enabled and authorized to receive all Articles or Charges which shall be exhibited against any Parson, Vicar, Curate, Schoolmaster, or any other now having or that shal have any Ecclesiastical benefit or promotion within the said counties, or any of them, for any Delinquency, Scandal, Malignancy, or *non-Residency* ; and upon such Articles so exhibited, to grant out Warrants in writing under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, to be directed to the party against whom such Articles shall be exhibited, requiring his appearance before such Commissioners, at a certain day and place in the said Warrant mentioned, to answer the said Charge or Articles respectively ; and after notice of the said Warrant personally made or given to the said party Articled against, or left at his dwelling House or ordinary place of abode, and that notice proved by Oath to be

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made by the space of ten days before the day of appearance in the said Warrant mentioned (no just Cause being made and proved to excuse the not appearing) and likewise after answer made by such as shall appear according to summons, Then the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, are hereby enabled and authorized to proceed to examination of witnesses upon Oath; the said examinations and Depositions of such Witnesses to be put in writing, as well on the behalf of the Commonwealth to prove such Charges and Articles, as on the behalf of the parties articted against to make good their Answers; which Oaths the said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, have hereby power to administer: And after due examination and proof made by confession of the party complained of, or by the Oath of two credible Witnesses, actually to amove, discharge and eject all such Ministers and other persons from their respective Cures, Benefices, Places and Charges, as they the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, upon such hearing shall adjudge to be guilty of any the Crimes aforesaid, in the said Articles contained and comprised; and after such Judgement given, in case any person shall finde himself aggrieved with such
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Judgement so given, Then it shall and may be lawful, to and for any twelve or more of the said Commissioners, upon Petition preferred to them by the party grieved, to review, examine and reverse the same, if they or the greater part of them see just cause so to do: And if notwithstanding the said ejected person shall not finde relief within six Weeks after his Petition so preferred, Then the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, shall at the request of the parties aggrieved respectively, certifie the respective Proceedings and Proofs in such cases respectively, to the Committee of Parliament for Plundred Ministers; who are hereby authorized upon the return of such Certificates, and view of such Proceedings and Proofs, without further examination of Witnesses in such cases, to examine the Grounds of the said respective Judgement appealed from, and to affirm or revoke the same, as they shall finde it most agreeable to Justice, and the tenor of this Act. And be it further Enacted and Declared, That the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, have hereby power & authority to allow the Wife and Children of such Minister or Ministers so ejected and amoved, for their maintenance, a proportion not exceeding a fifth part of the
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Living, Parsonage, Benefice, Vicarage, Charge or other place, out of which the said Ministers shall be respectively removed (all Parish Charges, Publike Taxes, and other Duties being first deducted out of the whole.) And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Parson or Vicar holdeth or enjoyeth, or which shall hold or enjoy plurality of Benefices or Ecclesiastical Promotions (one or more of which being within the Counties aforesaid) and upon a Warrant directed to him under the Hands of the said Commissioners or any five of them, requiring him at a certain day and place in the said warrant mentioned, to make choice and elect which of the said Benefices and Ecclesiastical Promotions he desires to hold: and upon notice of the said Warrant, shall not within forty days after the said notice, make his Election, testified under his hand before five or more of the said Commissioners, which of the said Benefices or Promotions he desires to hold, then from and after such default (no just cause being proved to excuse the same) all his right, title or interest in and to all such Benefices and Promotions to cease, determine, and be utterly void. And to the end that godly and painful men, of
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able gifts and knowledge for the work of the Ministry, and of approved conversation for Piety, may be employed to preach the Gospel in the counties aforesaid (which heretofore abounded in Ignorance and Prophane-ness) And that fit persons of approved Piety and Learning, may have encouragement to employ themselves in the education of Children in piety and good literature, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, be and are authorized and enabled to grant Certificates by way of approbation to such persons as shall be recommended and approved of by *Henry Walter, Walter Cradock, Richard Simonds, Roger Charnock, Jenkin Lloid, Morris Bidwel, David Walter, William Seaborn, Edmond Ellis, Jenkin Jones, George Robinson, Richard Powel, Robert Powel, Thomas Ewen, John Miles, Oliver Thomas, Doctor John Ellis, Ambrose Moston, Stephen Lewis, Morgan Lloid, William Jones, Richard Edwards, Varosor Powel, Richard Swain, Rowland Nevet*, Ministers of the Gospel, or any five or more of them, for the preaching of the Gospel in the said Counties, as well in settled Congregations and Parochial Charges, as in an Itinerary course, as the said Commissioners (by the advice of such the said Ministers as shall

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recommend and approve of the said persons respectively) shall adjudge to be most for the advancement of the Gospel, or for the keeping of Schools, and education of Children: And to the end that a fitting maintenance may be provided for such persons as shall be so recommended and approved of, as also for such others approvedly godly and painful Ministers now residing within the said Counties, for whose support and maintenance there is little or no settlement made or provided; Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That in order to the said maintenance, and in the regulating, ordering & disposal thereof, they the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them, are hereby authorized and enabled by themselves, or others deriving authority from them, to receive and dispose of all & singular the Rents, Issues and Profits of all and every the Rectories, Vicarages, Donatives, *sine Cura's*, Portion of Tenths, and other Ecclesiastical Livings, which now are, or hereafter shall be in the disposing of the Parliament, or any other deriving Authority from them; as also to receive and dispose of the Rents, Issues and Profits of all Impropriations and Glebelands within the said Counties, which now are, or hereafter shall be under Sequestration,

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or in the disposal of the Parliament, by virtue of any former Statute, or any Act or Ordinance of this present Parliament. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them, shall and may out of the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Rectories, Vicarages, Donatives, *sine Curas*, Portion of Tenths, and other Ecclesiastical Promotions; as also out of the Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Impropriations and Gleab-lands, order and appoint a constant yearly maintenance for such persons as shall be recommended and approved of as aforesaid, for the work of the Ministry, or the education of Children; as also for such other Ministers as aforesaid, now residing within the said Counties; provided that the yearly maintenance of a Minister do not exceed one hundred pounds, and the yearly maintenance of a School-master exceed not Forty pounds; and that godly Ministers (who have or shall have Wife or Children) may not too much be taken off from their duties in the Ministry, with the care and consideration of maintenance for their Wives and Children after their decease, but that some care thereof may be had by others, whereby a greater encouragement may be

given to them to set themselves the closer to the work of the said Ministry; Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them, are hereby enabled and authorized to make such yeerly allowance to the Wife and Children of such godly Minister after his decease, as to the said Commissioners or any twelve of them shall seem reasonable, for the necessary support and maintenance of the said Wife or Children, or any of them, Provided always, That such allowance so to be made to such Wife and Children, do not exceed the yeerly sum of thirty pounds: And if any person or persons being Tenant or Occupier of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, lyable and subject to the payment of any Tenths or other Duties, in right payable or belonging to any Parsonage, Vicarage, or any the abovesaid Ecclesiastical Promotions, shall refuse payment thereof, Then the said Commissioners or any two or more of them, are hereby authorized and enabled to put in execution against every person and persons so refusing, the powers and authorities vested and settled by this present Parliament in the Justices of the Peace, for the relief of Ministers from whom such Tenths and Duties are detained
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and substracted. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any twelve or more of them, out of the said Tenths, Rents and Profits by them receiveable by force of this Act, shall and may allow such moderate Salary or Wages to such person or persons who shall be imployed in the receiving, keeping and disposal thereof, or any part thereof, as they shall conceive to be necessary and reasonable. And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every person and persons qualified and approved of as abovesaid, for the preaching of the Gospel as aforesaid, who shall be vested and settled by the said Commissioners, or any twelve, or more of them, in any Rectory, Vicarage or Parochial Charge, which the said Commissioners, or any twelve or more of them have hereby power to do, shall be deemed and adjudged to be seized of the same, as fully and amply, to all intents and purposes, as if such person and persons were presented, instituted and inducted to and in the same, according to former Laws in such cases used and provided. And whereas the remoteness of the said Counties from the Courts of Justice at *Westminst.* occasioneth many acts of high Misdemeanors, Oppression and injury to be committed there, which often

times escape unpunished, and the parties aggrieved thereby, for want of means to seek relief by due course of Law, left remediless; To the end therefore that such Misdemeanors, Oppressions and Injuries may the better be enquired after, and the parties grieved thereby, without much expence of monies or loss of time, may be in some way of relief, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, shall have, and hereby have full Power and Authority to receive all Complaints which shall be brought before them, of any such Misdemeanors, Oppression or Injury, committed by any person or persons within the said Counties, or any of them; and by Warrant directed to the party complained of, under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners or any five or more of them, to appear before them at a certain day and place in the said Warrant mentioned, requiring an Answer to the said Complaints; and after answer made, then with the consent of both parties, testifie under their Hands and Seals, to proceed to hear and determine the same. And whereas sufferings of that nature generally fall upon persons well-affected to the Parliament, and such as have acted in and for their service; which said persons are not
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of ability to travel to *London*, to be relieved by the Committee of Parliament, commonly called *The Committee of Indempnity*, Be it therefore Enacted and Ordained by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any five, or more of them, shall be, and are hereby made and constituted a Committee of Indempnity, to all intents and purposes, within the Counties aforesaid, for the hearing and determining of all matters and things properly relievable and determinable by the said Committee of Indempnity. Provided alwayes, That if any person or persons shall find him or themselves agrieved at the proceedings of the said Commissioners, acting as a Committee of Indempnity, then the said person or persons so agrieved, shall and may prosecute his and their Petition or Ap-
 peale for relief, in such manner and form as in and by this Act is prescribed in the cases of ejected Ministers, and bring the same to a final determination, before the said Committee of Indempnity sitting at *Westminster*; which said Committee are hereby authorized to hear and determine the same, as they shall see just cause. And be it further Enacted, That all Power and Authority formerly vested in any Committee within the said Counties, or of any thē, for the placing of Ministers
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in Ecclesiasticall Livings or Promotions, be from henceforth determined: And that no person or persons shall be from henceforth vested and settled in any Rectory, Vicarage or Ecclesiasticall Promotion within any of the said Counties, unless such person or persons so to be vested or settled, be recommended and approved of for the work of the Ministry, according to the tenor and true meaning of this Act: And that this Act shall continue and be in force for the space of Three years, from the Five and twentieth day of *March*, One thousand six hundred and fifty, and no longer.

Die Veneris, 22. Februarii, 1649.

ORdered by the Parliament, That this Act be forthwith printed and published.

Hen. Scobel, Cleric. Parliamenti.

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Die Sabathi ult. Decembr. 1642.

Mr. Sollicitor, &c.

THis Committee or any four of them are to consider of the fittest way for the relief of such godly and well affected Ministers as have been plundred, and likewise to consider what Malignant Parsons have Benefices here, in, and about this Town, whose Livings being Sequestred, there may others supply their Cures, and receive the profits; and are to meet on *Munday* next at two of the clock in the Exchequer Court.

Die Iovis 27. Iulii, 1643.

ORdered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, that the Committee for plundred Ministers shall nominate none to any Parsonage or Benefice but such as shall be first examined by the Assembly of Divines or any five of them, and approved of by Certificate under their Hands; And the Assembly is desired to appoint a Committee for this purpose.

Ordered that the Committee for plundred Ministers shall have power to consider of the

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Informations against scandalous Ministers, though there be no Malignancy proved against them, and shall have power to put out such as are of scandalous life, their scandals being proved against them.

Septem. 6. 1463.

IT is this day Ordered by the Commons House of Parliament, that the Deputy Lieutenants, and Committees of Parliament in any County of this Kingdom, or any five or more of them, shall have power to take the examinations of all witnesses against any Ministers that are scandalous either in life or Doctrine, or any others that have deserted their Cures, and joyned themselves actually with, and are assistant unto the forces raised against the Parliament; and to the end that those who will appear, may have the witnesses examined in their presence, it is further Ordered, that Summons (with sufficient warning of the time and place, when and where the charge against them shall be proved) be either given to their persons, or left at their houses; and if they desire it, they shall have a Copy of the Articles against them, with a convenient time to give in their answers under their Hands; which together
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with their Charge and the proofs upon every particular of it, the said Deputy Lieutenants and Committees of Parliament shall send up to the Committee of this House appointed for to provide for plundered Ministers, which Committee shall from time to time transmit them to the House.

Die Mercurii, 18. Octobr. 1643.

IT is this day ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, that the Committee for plundered Ministers shall have power to enquire after Malignant Schoolmasters.

Die Luna 7. Octobr. 1644.

ORdered that it be referred to the Committee for plundered Ministers, to consider how the poor Vicarages and Cures of the Kingdom may be raised to a competent maintenance out of the Revenues of the Deans, Deans and Chapters, and of Improprate Parsonages, and to report their opinions to the House.

Die Luna 7. Iulii, 1645.

Resolved, &c.

THat the Petition from the Committee of *Middl.* be referred to the consideration of the Committee for plundered Ministers, & they are to take into consideration all Petitions of the like nature, and are to consider of some means for providing a competent maintenance for settling a good Ministry in such Counties and places as shall desire it, and to present it to the House; and that they begin first with this business of *Middlesex*. It is further referred to the Committee of plundered Ministers, and they have hereby power to remove out of the same Town and Parish all such scandalous Ministers as they have or shall put out of any Benefices or Livings.

Die Luna 15. Martii, 1646.

THat it be referred to the Committee of plundered Ministers to take effectual course that no Minister that hath been Sequestred for scandal in life or Doctrine, or for Malignancy

nancy against the Parliament, be admitted to any Living, or permitted to preach untill he hath licence from both Houses of Parliament; And that they take care that such as be admitted by their order, may take the Covenant before they be admitted.

Die Iovis 11. Novemb. 1647.

Resolved, &c.

THat the Wives and children of all such persons as are, have been, or shal be Sequestred by order of either House of Parliament, shall be comprehended within the Ordinance that allows a fift part for Wives and children, and shall have their fift part allowed unto them; And the Committee for Lords and Commons for Sequestration, and the Committee for plundred Ministers, and all other Committees are required to take notice hereof, and yield obedience hereunto accordingly.

Die Luna 20. Decemb. 1647.

IT is this day ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, that power be given to the Committee of plundred Ministers

fo examine the Informations now given, and all other of the like nature concerning ſuch Miniſters as have adhered to the enemy, that have preached without authority and licence of Parliament, and concerning ſuch as have preached againſt the proceedings of Parliament within the City of *London* or late Lines of communication, or elſewhere; And whereas the Houſe hath been informed that the Book of Common-prayer hath been uſually read in Churches within the City of *London* and Lines of Communication, and elſewhere; to commit ſuch as upon examination they ſhall find to have been guilty herein, and to take care to ſuppreſs ſuch as have adhered to the enemy, that ſhall preach without licence, by Commitment if they ſhall ſee cauſe, and to ſuppreſs the reading of the Book of Common-prayer.

Die Sabathi Decemb. 25. 1647.

ORdered by the Commons aſſembled in Parliament, that power be given to the Committee for plundred Miniſters, if they ſhall ſee cauſe, to commit ſuch Church-wardens, or Sequeſtrators, or others, that ſhall ſet up, or countenance Delinquent-Miniſters

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to preach; It is further ordered, that power
be given to the Committee of plundered
Ministers to put in due execution the Ordinance
for abolishing the observation of
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